

**Amendments to the Claims:**  
**Listing of the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

5. (currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid sequence that encodes a protein comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, or the complement of said nucleic acid sequence, or both ~~selected from the group consisting of:~~

(a) ~~a nucleic acid sequence of at least 200 nucleotides which is a portion of SEQ ID NO:1 or the complement thereof; and,~~

(b) ~~a nucleic acid sequence of at least 200 nucleotides which hybridizes to SEQ ID NO:1 or the complement thereof, under stringent conditions.~~

6. (currently amended) The An isolated polynucleotide of claim 5, wherein said polynucleotide comprises comprising a nucleic acid sequence which encodes a polypeptide that interacts with and activates an estrogen receptor and a progesterone receptor, said polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least 85% identical to SEQ ID NO: 2 SEQ ID NO:2, and wherein the differences between the amino acid sequence of said polypeptide and SEQ ID NO:2 are due to conservative amino acid substitutions.

7. (currently amended) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 5, wherein the ~~nucleic acid comprises part of~~ polynucleotide is incorporated into an expression vector, a viral genome vector, or a liposome.

8. (currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide ~~for inhibiting translation of an mRNA which encodes SEQ ID NO: 2, said polynucleotide being at least 8 nucleotides in length and comprising a sequence which is complementary to a portion or all of the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ. ID. NO. 1~~ SEQ ID NO: 1 or the protein encoding portion of SEQ ID NO: 1.

9. (currently amended) A primer set ~~for amplifying an ERCoA3 transcript, said primer set~~ comprising a first purified primer comprising a sequence which is identical to a first ~~contiguous~~ sequence of 10 or more contiguous nucleotides in the protein encoding portion of SEQ ID NO.1, and a second purified primer comprising a sequence which is complementary to a second ~~contiguous~~ sequence of 10 or more contiguous nucleotides in the protein encoding sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1, ~~wherein said second contiguous sequence is downstream of said first contiguous sequence,~~ wherein each of said primers has a G + C content of at least 40%.

10. (currently amended) ~~A The primer set of claim 25~~ comprising at least two purified oligonucleotides wherein one of said oligonucleotides comprises SEQ ID NO: 3 and another of said oligonucleotides comprises SEQ ID NO:4 ~~said first primer said second primer each are at least 10 nucleotides in length.~~

11-22 (canceled)

23. (new) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 5, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the protein encoding sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1.

24. (new) An isolated polynucleotide, comprising on or both of the following:

- (a) an altered SEQ ID NO. 1,
- (b) the complement of (a),

wherein the alterations to SEQ ID NO:1 comprise one or both of the following:

- i) addition or inclusion of restriction sites in SEQ ID NO: 1; and
- ii) replacement of naturally occurring codons in SEQ ID NO: 1 with non-naturally occurring codons that permit expression of said polynucleotide in a host cell.

25. (new) An isolated polynucleotide, comprising on or both of the following:

- (a) an altered protein encoding portion of SEQ ID NO. 1,
- (b) the complement of (a),

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wherein the alterations to the protein encoding portion of SEQ ID NO:1 comprise one or both of the following:

- i) addition or inclusion of restriction sites in the protein encoding portion of SEQ ID NO: 1; and
- ii) replacement of naturally occurring codons in the protein encoding portion of SEQ ID NO: 1 with non-naturally occurring codons that permit expression of said polynucleotide in a host cell.